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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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THE INFANCY OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC ART, CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO ITS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES.

There are those in the Homœopathic school of medicine, who regard the science, in its infancy, susceptible of great improvement, and destined to accomplish much more than it has yet done. These allow their views on this subject to justify and excuse them for a departure in practice, from the principles laid down by the founder of the system, to which he adhered throughout a long course of the most triumphant success in the treatment of disease; and which have been adopted, and strictly adhered to by great numbers of his intelligent and obedient disciples. That homœopathy in respect to the number of years, or length of time in which it has been promulgated, is yet in its infancy is indeed true; but in respect to the principles upon which it is based, it is as old as time, and fully matured. Sin had no sooner

entered the world than the *Supreme Being*, provided a way of escape from its poison and its curse. Nor was disease allowed to afflict man and commence its ravages, without the co-existence of its antidotes and remedies. These have ever existed in the three great kingdoms of nature; and the relation existing between them and disease, the principle upon which if applied to the latter, they would cure it, was as true when Moses lifted up the brazen-serpent in the wilderness, as when first discovered and divulged by Hahnemann.

The law upon which the homœopathic art is based, has always been in existence, and has known no change. Cures have always been effected upon the principle which it involves, notwithstanding it was not detected and observed. The treatment of the sick upon other principles has always been wrong, and attended with untold evils, although it has governed the world so long and been occasionally productive of seeming good. The law, to which we refer, is fixed and immutable, like other laws of nature, and is susceptible of no improvement or modification. It is perfect in itself, and affords a simple and sure rule by which the physician may always be guided in treating disease. It is a fundamental axiom by which the profession in all time, and in all countries, may be directed in their efforts to heal the sick. It gives at once permanency and uniformity to the science, and success to the practice of medicine, such as it has never yet enjoyed.

The science of medicine embraces, a knowledge of disease;—a knowledge of remedies;—and, the principles upon which they are applied. The homœopathist is not left to conjecture and speculation in his estimate of disease; he looks at the phenomena as it exists, and he regards the whole case—all that can be exhibited to his senses, as the malady. This indicates fully and satisfactorily to his mind the course to be

adopted — the treatment to be pursued. He resorts to no theorizing. Looking at the whole case, he detects its relation to the true remedy; and their visible and apparent signs are a never failing guide to him in his selection of the means to be employed. This being the true mode of ascertaining the proper treatment of disease, it is susceptible of no improvement. And though it has been adopted but half a century, sufficient experience has determined alike its truth and its superior safety and efficiency. If the physician had a perfect knowledge of the remote and proximate causes of disease and was familiar with its history; though he might be able at a glance to detect the changes which it may have wrought in the vital actions, or in the various tissues of the body; though he could predict with positive certainty, its course and termination; he is still to be governed in his treatment by the signs with which suffering nature appeals to his senses for relief, and his first and only anxiety is to know, what medicinal agent is capable of producing a similar state, that he may apply it.

Hence, the action of these agents becomes to him, an all-absorbing object of interest and investigation. In this respect, the *art* of homœopathy may be justly charged with infancy; and yet it has accomplished more in fifty years, in ascertaining the real effects of drugs upon the human system, than had ever been even attempted by the old school, with all its boasted antiquity. Very little is professed to be known in the allopathic *materia medica* of the secondary and dynamic effects of drugs; and only a general knowledge of the primary, chemical and mechanical effects of various medicinal agents is described, as they were observed from cases of poisoning, or from being given in large doses, in a crude form, to animals, or administered to the sick. The general characteristics of a drug thus determined, have been of no value, except in a few isolated cases, for the want of knowledge of its specific relation to disease.

But although the knowledge of these agents demanded by the homœopathic art, is not complete and an extended field for trial is left to make it so, yet it is sufficiently extensive to enable the homœopathic art to cope successfully with its great and antiquated rival, and to demonstrate when it is introduced and tried, its superior safety, power, and efficacy, in curing disease. Its triumphs are wide-spread over every country in Europe and in America, and the faithful and studious physician is not at a

loss for the means to treat, successfully, every case of natural disease, he may be called upon to encounter; and in a majority of cases to counteract the mischief which has already been effected by the crude and poisonous doses of his allopathic brethren. To the utter inutility of the knowledge of drugs acquired by the old school, and their mode of administering them, as well as their dangerous consequences, both immediate and remote; we not only oppose the superior safety, and efficiency of the homœopathic mode, which certainly has been abundantly demonstrated, but the unqualified assertions and confessions of the best writers and practitioners in that (the old school.)

When the inestimable acquisitions of the homœopathic *materia medica*, the rich field of discovery and observation in which homœopaths are labouring with indefatigable industry and perseverance; the direct availability of the knowledge of medical agents, thus acquired; the simple and true principle which guides their use; the rapid spread and undisputed success of the homœopathic practice; the confessedly "generally useless, often injurious, and sometimes fatal effects of drugs," as heretofore used, are considered; the plea of infancy for the homœopathic art is far from being complimentary to the intelligence, industry or skill of the homœopathic physician, while the great discoveries in other sciences and art, which distinguish this age, are continually demonstrating the folly of the allopathist who makes it an excuse for not investigating the claims of homœopathy.

As a science homœopathy is already perfect, having its foundation in certain principles which are eternal and immutable in their very nature. As an *art* its advancement has been rapid and satisfactory, and nothing can stay its progress, save the unwarrantable neglect on the part of its practitioners in faithfully applying the great principles which govern it. This requires not only a knowledge of remedial agents, but of the mode of preparation, and the dose.

[To be Continued.]

PREVENTION OF DISEASE.

"An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," is an old adage, which has much influence in the world. It is not our purpose to find fault with the saying itself, but to consider the usual means employed to prevent the development of disease.

Could the calculation be accurately made, it

would not surprise us, if the quantity of drugs swallowed to avoid disease, did not far exceed that, used in real sickness. However this may be, it may, we think, be set down for a fact, that those who practice most the ordinary means of "prevention," usually complain much of bad health.

This important subject should be examined with care, which we will attempt to do. The practice of the people for the "prevention" of diseases, consists uniformly, of a sudden change of diet and habit; and a frequent repetition of drugs in large doses. The former, of itself, may induce a diseased condition in some persons, although most persons would become accustomed to the change, and no serious evil result from this alone; but if employed with the latter, injurious and often fatal effects might follow, as a consequence.

This may be illustrated by a case: "It being hot weather," said a gentleman, a hearty eater, to us lately, "and for fear of sickness, I changed my diet. I have lived the last two weeks on small quantities of vegetables, and bread and water; and feeling my blood hot, as I thought, I have taken a small dose of epsom salts daily, and a blue pill every other night, just to cool my blood and keep my bowels in a lax state; but I find myself sick. I am feeble, restless, sleepless, dizzy, and my eye-sight fails. I have a disgust to all food, nasty taste in the mouth, a thickly coated tongue, and so great is my thirst, that I have drank quarts of iced water every day. I have no firmness to persevere in what I undertake, and do not feel business-like. I am irritable, and my wife says, she is distressed at the change she observes daily in my health. This morning, I coughed and raised a good deal of matter from my throat or chest, and as I am of a consumptive family, I fear, that terrible disease is about to be developed in me." This person was also, in a high state of mental excitement, as the relation of his case shows. We informed him that his condition was the effect of a change in his diet, and the drugs he had taken; which was imprudent on our part, for the doctrine was so contrary to that, in which he had been instructed, that at once he told us, rather tartly that he did not believe any such nonsense, and was about to leave us abruptly. But finally, he said, "if you can cure me, do so—we will not dispute about the cause." We gave him three pellets of Sulphur 30th att., to be followed with three pellets of Nux vom. 30th att., the next day, and to go back to his former diet, as his

appetite urged to it. In one week he was well, and remains so. He told us, he would not again practice "prevention" in that way.

We cannot allow the notice of the above case to pass, and not pay our respects to our allopathic brethren, as we are wont to do on all suitable occasions. What would have been the treatment of this case by an allopathic physician and the probable result?

We cannot say with certainty, for since that absurdity, distinguished by the term *eclecticism*, has come into vogue among the self-styled "regulars" it is not easy to know, what the practice really is; but in the days when we employed venesection and calomel, most likely it would have been Calomel ten grains, and Dover's powder ten grains, to be taken at night; and castor oil one ounce to be taken the next morning. The object would have been, to allay irritation, and remove costiveness. Both of which, in a short time, would be increased, with the addition of fever, nausea, real debility, and soreness of the abdomen. In a word, the condition would have been such, that the case would have received an alarming name, such as, *typhoid fever*, or a remittent fever, approximating a *typhus*; and the patient or his friends might have been told, that he would have perhaps, a three weeks sickness, and not without danger. If the physician did not have the full confidence of the family, a consultation would be proposed, and of course assented to. We will not disclose how a regularly conducted consultation is managed among allopathic physicians, we could do so, for we have been in them—we will speak only of the supposed result. The family and perhaps the patient wait anxiously to learn the opinion of the consulting physician. His language would be somewhat like this—with a grave manner he would say:—"This gentleman is very sick—but we hope for the best—your physician has fully understood the case, and has pursued the right practice." This last would be omitted if they were not personal friends. "We have agreed upon a course of treatment which we hope will have the desired effect." But of what would the prescription consist? Probably leeches to the abdomen; and pills of calomel and opium, one every four or six hours, to effect a slight salivation, as soon as possible. The consequence would be a sickness of from three to six weeks, and daily medical attendance, with frequent changes of medicine; the patients constitution having been previously good he might not die, but would have a slow

recovery—and in three months from the period he first consulted his physician he might attend to his occupation. This may look to some, like a fancy sketch—but we “testify to that which we have seen,” and we appeal to some of our readers, if it has not been their experience. Do you not often refer to that long fit of sickness, and declare that your health has not been what it was previously. The fault heretofore was not in the physician—he followed his instructions; but now the means of knowing better are within the reach of every member of the profession, and as they are not made available, let the blame rest where it should—upon those who sneer at Hahnemann and homœopathy, and combine under a high sounding title to destroy his disciples and it.

Thus far, we have alluded to adults; but the same evil is carried to a still greater extent with children. The means employed to prevent sickness, by a large number of the people of this city, has already this summer, we do not doubt, caused sickness in thousands, and enlarged the bill of mortality, especially among children. Of 500 deaths in a single week, one-half were children under the age of five years; and this is about the proportion weekly, in this city.

The more wealthy, ask their physicians, what they must do to prevent sickness in their children. To the credit of the faculty (allopathic and homœopathic) so far as medicine is concerned, they do discountenance its use, unless there be real sickness. But physicians are apt to give some advice about diet, which being complied with, may result either in costiveness or its opposite. If the former, some laxative will be administered and repeated; and if the latter, then some, what the old school, without reason, calls astringents, are given; and very soon a condition is induced, that alarms parents, and the advice of the physician is again sought, who prescribes some mixture of drugs, which in most cases increases the difficulty, by a drug sickness; which is hardly yet acknowledged in the allopathic school of medicine. From day to day the child is drugged, and from day to day it grows worse, until it dies. By means similar to these do the wealthy of our cities lose many of their children.

The poor, among whom is the greater proportion of the mortality of children, go to the apothecary, and ask him, what is good to prevent children getting the “summer com-

plaint;” although he is not a physician, but he sells drugs, and will avail himself of such applications, to recommend the daily use of certain mixtures of drugs, which he prepares, to prevent diarrhœa, in hot weather. From day to day and several times in each day, will nauseous mixtures prescribed and prepared by the apothecary, be forced down the throats of the healthy children of the poor, as a “prevention,” until that which is dreaded takes place. There is reason for the opinion, that apothecary prescriptions do much to increase the bill of mortality among children. In addition, there are numerous quack nostrums advertised to prevent summer complaint in children which they are compelled to swallow, and many, that are termed domestic medicines are also used as *preventives*:—all tending to the same point—DEATH.

These we believe are the prominent causes of the mortality of children in our cities. Such results would be predicted by any one acquainted with the effects of drugs on the human system, but this knowledge is only recorded in the *materia medica* of the homœopaths and very few indeed of the allopaths know any thing of that work—and therefore the work of death, must go on for awhile longer. The notion prevails, that the air of this city is unwholesome, and this is the cause of so much sickness and death of children. We do not believe this is true. Our citizens who retire to the country with their little ones and take with them medicines prepared to meet contingencies, and the above practice for “prevention” in their minds, their children will sicken, and do sicken as soon in the country as in the city. We have seen much of this in our day, and can speak of it with confidence. Seldom do the children of those who permanently reside in the country, who never trouble themselves about “prevention,” who know little or nothing of drugs; who have no apothecary in their neighbourhood, and the physician ten miles off—how seldom, under these circumstances do they suffer of summer complaints. This fact should teach an important lesson in the management of children.

We cannot at this time pursue this subject further—we have much more to say of the diseases of children and their treatment, which from time to time we shall lay before the readers of this Journal. We conclude this article by remarking that the real “prevention” consists of: 1st Let drugs alone,—take

no cathartics. 2nd, Use such diet as will not act medicinally, fruits will not do so, if they are ripe and fresh.

The obstacles in the way of the advance of the Homœopathic Art.

By HENRY C. KNIGHT Esq.

(Concluded from page 72.)

Homœopathy necessarily has to combat all the modes of opposition which most new discoveries encounter with, perhaps, some additions. It is something entirely new to the experience of men, although it is powerfully supported, analogically, by a great number of facts, well known to every body. Any thing thus new and diverse from past observation and experience, must necessarily be established by a greater amount of evidence than that which is in more direct accordance with our previous notions. Hence it is to be expected that homœopathy will encounter a greater degree of incredulity at first than many other discoveries in physical laws.

The immense value and importance of the discovery also tend to stagger the belief of many men, or at least to lead them to great care in examining the evidence. Many persons have but little fear about being deceived in a small matter; but the dread of being led astray in so vast a concern absolutely deters ordinary minds, unsupported, from acting upon the dictates of their own intellect. A man to be thoroughly subject to the law of his intelligence, must be possessed of entire moral courage, and not have too great a veneration for those high in office and reputation.

Thus far, then, we can see how there may and do exist obstacles to the rapid spread of homœopathy, involving no great degree of criminality on the part of opposers, or, at least of unbelievers. But if the above were the only difficulties, they could all be removed in a very short time. Mankind are generally anxious to have some radical reformation in the practice of medicine; and if the allopaths do not think so, they grossly deceive themselves. The people would receive the new scheme, almost simultaneously, if professional men would examine its merits, and promulgate the results. The doctor cannot persuade the people that no reformation is desirable; although they can, to a great extent, as yet, make them believe

or fear that none has taken place. The real obstacles, then, to the progress of homœopathy are to be looked for alone in the ranks of the profession.

The question is not one which can be easily and scientifically settled by every individual: the mass of men feel under the necessity of trusting to the profession, and looking to its members for light on the subject. We must be pardoned, if we say, that the light amongst them is darkness, and, truly, "great is that darkness."

With all schools in medicine, politics, or religion, there is a wonderful tenacity of life. A party spirit is awakened and fanned by adroit or fanatical leaders, until it reaches a perfect phrenzy, and it requires a long time for reason to smother its baneful fires. We all know with what tenacity political officeholders hold fast to their places, and how patriotic is their zeal for the perpetuity of party power. It is not, then, very strange that medical men should cling, with a death-struggle, to their scheme, which furnishes them their living and their consideration with the public. "Their craft is in danger." It is not speaking too disrespectfully of the disciples of Hippocrates to say, that the mistaken idea that their livelihood would be endangered, and still more their reputation, has a wonderful effect to deter individuals amongst them from looking into homœopathy. But the advancing spirit of brotherhood, of universal sympathy, which is quietly working its leaven into society, despite the follies of ultra propagandism, or of ultra conservatism will, ere long, sweep away this strong prop of ancient error.

Again, the usual *vis inertia* of mind, is an obstacle in the way of homœopathy, which is apt to be overlooked. Men's minds are only active, acute and free upon subjects in which they have found attractions. How can the man, who has been duly informed by some learned idol that homœopathy is unworthy of serious consideration, be induced to look at it enough to discover any of its truths or its beauties? Thus, a vast portion of the profession are sealed up, like a sea of ice, and their minds do not move at all upon the subject.

Want of self-confidence is another obstacle to the rapid progress of homœopathy amongst the profession. But comparatively few men care to trust themselves in a court of independent thought and action, upon so momen-

tous a subject. Where the greatest minds dread to enter, the mediocrity stand mute with hesitating dread. They will soon loose this timidity, for the subject is capable of as certain proofs, as any other series or class of physical truths, and in it the man of careful observation knows well that he need not be mistaken. As an instance, take the fact, that by three successive triturations, according to Hahnemann's mode, gold becomes so far subdivided in its component atoms, as to be soluble in alcohol or water. Any man who tries this experiment, and finds the gold leaf entirely disappear in the process, and finds the solution produce the marked pathogenetic effects of that metal, knows that he cannot be mistaken. The fact, then, that many learned allopaths have never repeated the process, and therefore do not believe in it; is not sufficient to deter, even the most ignorant from satisfying themselves. Yet such things always have operated, and still continue to operate strangely upon many minds.

Again, the ultra selfishness and recklessness of some distinguished allopathic leaders is an obstacle to the immediate, general diffusion of the knowledge of the homœopathic principle. We cannot give a more perfect illustration of this, than to cite the ground taken by Dr Flint, in the first number of his "Buffalo Medical Journal," in which he declares with all confidence, that *Homœopathy is not worthy, even of ridicule*. The testimony of thousands of learned, intelligent and honest men; the fact, that a vast number of persons have used no other medicine for years, and have nevertheless passed safely through a variety of diseases; the fact that homœopathic physicians have great confidence in their medicines; the extremely favorable reports of hospital treatment on this principle; all these have not weight enough with the learned professor, to elevate the subject sufficiently high to be worthy of his ridicule! This is not a rare case, but it is a fair specimen of the degree of honesty and common sense manifested by a portion of the leaders of the old school.

Many of the allopaths resort to all manner of contradictory objections to homœopathy, and modes of accounting for its cures, which, doubtless, have some effect, and will continue to have until the public loose all confidence in these gentlemen. Does homœopathy cure a severe inflammation of the brain, which is usually fatal under the other

treatment? "Why," they exclaim, with all the coolness imaginable, "nature has worked the cure!" Truly, if this be true, they would do much better to receive the money of their patients, as a bribe for *letting nature alone*. Does a patient complain, as they sometimes will, of medicinal aggravations from the infinitesimal dose; or does a patient die, as they must, sometimes? they are not at a loss to account for it. "The homœopaths give such awful poisons; I don't know how they can dare to do it." Nothing is said by the learned speaker about himself giving the very same poison, labelled with a mysterious abbreviation of a technical name, and in quantities hundreds or thousands of times greater than the homœopathist employs. On the other hand, if the patient experiences no marked or immediate benefit, and does not puke, sweat, or purge,—“Oh!” says the same learned gentleman, “these infinitesimal doses can't have any effect: it is mere *physical transcendentalism*. Thus are they always prepared and ever ready to forget a past objection in the press of a present exigency. The writer does not state these things at random; they are all actual occurrences, capable of all the proof that may be desired, giving persons, times and places.

With such desperate recklessness, with men ordinarily respected by the community, it is not strange that the tide of homœopathy should be occasionally staid for a time, in its onward rush. But it requires no prophetic ken to foresee that such straw, hay and stubble will quickly be swept away. As well might you undertake to stop the Mississippi with sea-weed, as to dam up truth with such futile barriers.

We have not yet done with the obstacles which impede the progress of this new and true science of practical medicine. The natural and usual prejudices of men stand in the way. It is not that homœopathy is peculiarly liable to prejudice, above other subjects, although this may possibly be true; but that prejudice throws a strange spell over the human intellect, and often spreads darkness over the most sincere mind. Unless a man has, to an uncommon degree, obeyed the good old injunction—“know thyself,” he has but little consciousness of the effect of prejudice upon his opinions. Nevertheless, we defy the power of this enemy of truth to prevent the honest inquirer from satisfying himself of the correctness of the homœopathic

principle. But it seeks to stop the opposer at the threshold; not being willing to loose his former time and labor, and run the risk of abandoning some favorite notions, he will not enter upon the investigation.

Another obstacle existing amongst the profession is, their unwillingness to repeat Hahnemann's experiments, *in the way he did*. The learned professors imagine that they can test these alleged discoveries, in some way of their own. Thus, some pretended experimenters have discovered nothing. Vain folly! If a friend tells you of some hitherto unknown beauties of nature, far in the recesses of the forest, and gives minute directions as to the path to follow; would you be mad enough to strut off some other way, and wandering long in the forest without discovering the object sought, would you have the hardihood to give your solemn testimony that your friend had spoken falsely? Then why, Oh! ye learned, will you pursue such an insane course in this matter?

But no less a man than Andral has done this very thing; and his wild and partial experiments are constantly resorted to by the opposers of homœopathy. This is not the place to sift, thoroughly these absurd experiments, or to show, as can easily be done, that they are richly deserving of ridicule.

The incompetency or unfaithfulness of those who profess to practice homœopathy, will, to some extent, retard its progress. Like other new systems, it will enlist those who, from other than scientific or praiseworthy motives, arrogate to themselves a knowledge of the art, and while they impose upon the ignorance of community, they excite prejudices against that, which, in other hands would command confidence and admiration: but, as people become acquainted with *the principles* of homœopathy, so the incompetency of the pretended homœopathist is manifested, and his power to injure the system destroyed.

From the unfaithfulness of these, who, from a want of comprehension of the universality and exclusiveness of the homœopathic law, or who from lack of patient study in applying it—excusing themselves on the pretence that our knowledge of remedial agents is not sufficient to apply it in all cases—and who, from a disregard of, or affected disbelief in the rules prescribed by Hahnemann, for preparing the medicines and treating disease, resort to empirical means, and mix their practice, great mischief is effected, especially in the minds of

those who judge of the system only from its practical workings. This evil, though for a time it must check the progress of the art, where it exists, will eventually bring discredit upon those who thus practice. It cannot prevail to any great extent, nor permanently, among the enlightened physicians of this country.

The last obstacle, which we shall notice, is one of strange power, not existing alone, or perhaps at all, in the ranks of the profession—it is *superstition*. Many people would be glad to know that homœopathy is true, and will try it in ordinary or slight cases; but when a severe acute disease appears, they fancy or fear that it will not do to trust it here. They must have something *powerful*. As no man can assign any adequate or even definite reason for this, we have styled it, as it deserves, mere superstition, arising from the former horrors of the fatal sick-bed. And yet this shadowy fear has prevented the full trial of the virtues of homœopathy, in a great many such cases; and we could specify some such, where, even after the physician was satisfied that convalescence had commenced, allopathy was called in, and the patient died.

So great, too, is the power of antiquity upon many minds, that it is extremely difficult for them ever to obey the plain dictates of their own intelligence. "The old system has stood for thousands of years, and shall it, at this late day, be pulled down and destroyed?"—is a question which the writer has heard gravely put. What a query for a rational mind! Let such a person inquire of himself, how long the superstitious worship of Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, and Bacchus existed amongst men. What a pity that these worthy gods should, after all, be dethroned! Let him also contemplate the antiquity of the bloody rites of Juggernaut. Surely, every objection drawn from time or antiquity deserves to be called mere superstition. If any man dare not trust his own intellect, then we will offer him, freely, the liberty of being guided by the ancients, even that strong-minded old heathen, Hippocrates. But men, of this enlightened age and country, should break away from such flimsy bonds of superstitious prejudice.

Yet another instance of what may be called superstition, amongst the obstacles to the progress of Homœopathy, arises from some very witty gentlemen having called it "*physical transcendentalism*." "TRANSCENDENTALISM!" cry out a host of fearful creatures, "away with

it!" It was discovered or invented by a German, in the very hot-bed of transcendentalism; and a terrible suspicion arises that it may possibly have something to do with that school of philosophy. How do these fearful souls dare to believe in the gun-cotton? Was it not invented or discovered in Germany; is it not a very new and strange thing? Is it not, too, "physical transcendentalism?" Oh no! they can hear its dreadful explosion, and see it heave the huge rock; this looks quite Allopathic. But Homœopathy is a physical fact, and as well capable of accurate proof of its existence, as the virtues of gun-cotton. Then away with 'your superstition, or your dishonest attempts to play upon the superstition of others, and look into this subject faithfully and honestly. Hahnemann throws out the bold challenge to the world, and we repeat it, "Do as I have done, and you will obtain my results."

Until the opposers have shown, by ample testimony, that they have repeated, step by step, the experiments made by Hahnemann and his followers, we utterly deny that they have any evidence to give, or the least true knowledge of the subject. We do not pretend that our system can be established, and we well know that it cannot be overthrown, by abstract argument, by ridicule, or by words in any form. We point to actual physical facts, and call upon the honest lover of science, and of his species, to look at them and draw his own conclusions. If we have admitted that there are obstacles in the way of the general reception of Homœopathy, we may be permitted to declare our entire confidence, that they are destined to be dissolved by the truth, like mist before the rising sun.

[For the American Journal of Homœopathy.]

HOMŒOPATHY IN WISCONSIN.

Messrs. Editors—I intended sooner, as I promised, to give you some account of the introduction and spread of Homœopathy in the West. In Western New York, as you are already well informed, its success has been truly wonderful and gratifying. There is scarcely a town or village of any note which is not favored with a homœopathic physician, and in these places the practice has become popular with a majority of the people, and those of the more intelligent classes. Those who practice it are generally regularly educat-

ed physicians, who have had more or less experience in allopathic practice, and who, after a fair trial of the homœopathic practice, adopt it exclusively and adhere to it faithfully. The great numbers who thus adopt and practice it, and its universally acknowledged popularity, are irresistible signs of its inestimable value, and of its destiny. The opposition with which it has met has tended to advance it, and the history of no reformation in science can furnish a parallel to its success.

The history of its advancement in Western New York is that of its progress throughout the vast West, in proportion to the length of time in which it has been promulgated. In this Territory, where circumstances relating to the health of my family induced my residence since last fall, its reception has been most cheering. It has gathered around its standard numerous and influential friends. There is perhaps no city in America where our art has made more rapid strides in the same length of time than in Milwaukee, and its influence is being rapidly spread throughout the Territory. The number of competent practitioners is constantly augmenting. The people, thoroughly convinced of the want of success and the evils resulting from the gross practice of the regular Sangrados, hail with enthusiasm a substitute whose mild and efficient sway contrasts so favorably with the crude and dangerous expedients of Allopathy; and nothing but the grossest ignorance can endanger its continued prosperity.

In the fevers so prevalent in the West, of a bilious remittent, intermittent and typhoid character, the homœopathic treatment is signally successful. In the old practice, these fevers are subjected to heroic treatment, and their course is severe and obstinate; and a strong predisposition to repeated attacks is superinduced by the large doses of mercury and quinine which are so recklessly employed to cure them. Intermittents, which are generally considered to be more difficult to cure than any other form of miasmatic fever, are comparatively promptly and always certainly cured by the attenuated medicines carefully and judiciously selected. I have not met with a case in which the homœopathic treatment was not successful and satisfactory. Inflammatory fevers, inflammation of the thoracic viscera, pneumonia, &c. yield admirably to homœopathic remedies.

I regret to say that the importation of uneducated and inefficient practitioners from the

East will tend to retard the progress of the homœopathic practice. In a few instances, I have known laymen from the East to advertise as homœopathic doctors, which, for a time at least, will do great harm. A popular journal like your own is needed, and should circulate in such locations, as the best means of correcting these evils. The people should be informed, not only of the characteristic differences, in principle as well as in practice, between our school and the old, but between correct and pretended homœopathic treatment. So far as my observation has gone, Homœopathy has suffered most from half-converted Allopathists, who are ready to unsheathe their lancets, or apply their blisters, or give large doses, to suit the prejudices or the fancies of their patients. This mixed practice is as abominable as it is inconsistent and injurious to the cause of Homœopathy and of humanity, for whom two thousand years of suffering from the scourges of the drugging system should suffice. We look to the influence of the enlightened portion of our school in the East to discountenance and correct this state of things, and to preserve the system in this country from the evils which, from similar causes, have in Europe endangered its purity and universal adoption. Very truly yours,

H. H. CATOR.

Milwaukee, July 25, 1847.

Notice of First Volume of Hartmann's Acute Diseases, and their Homœopathic Treatment.

Continued from page 61.

We are disposed to attach much importance to the principle, or the fact, of the power of medicines administered upon the homœopathic law, to produce aggravations or exacerbations of the disease, for which they may be given, as it is, in our judgment the ability which the physician possesses to determine the effect of his remedies, and the natural action or advance of the disease which distinguishes him from the mere routinist and empiric. It undoubtedly more frequently happens, that the process of cure is interrupted, and the action of the true remedy cut off by an untimely repetition or administration of another medicine, than that as Hartmann asserts, "this error" (the pretended exacerbations recorded in the books, etc.) "has proved injurious to the patient inasmuch as it induced the omission of

many things which ought to have been done."

The following doctrine laid down by Hahnemann, we regard not only as true in fact but deducible from the law *similar similibus*: "The appropriation of a medicine to any given case of disease does not depend solely upon the circumstance of its being perfectly homœopathic, but also upon the minute quantity of the dose in which it is administered; the impression it makes is felt the more sensibly because, in virtue of its homœopathic character, the remedy acts *precisely on those parts of the organism which have already been most exposed to the attacks of the natural disease.*"

Dr. Joslin in his "Evidences of the power of small doses and attenuated Medicines," makes the following illustrative observations:

"The efficacy of a small dose—and the danger of a large one—is increased by the peculiar sensitive condition of disordered parts. Suffering with a morbid action similar to that producible by the medicine, they possess a preternaturally acute sensibility to its influence.

"It is unnecessary to illustrate and confirm this principle by examples. They are obvious and numberless. The scalded head is pained by a distant fire, the inflamed skin by slight percussion, and the inflamed eye by light. The agents, which now with feeble intensity, can severely aggravate the irritation, could, if applied with greater intensity, have originated the inflammation in the healthy parts. But the force which can barely aggravate the existing irritation, could not have irritated the parts when in their normal condition. That kind of irritant which, in the locality in which it acts and in the phenomena which it develops, resembles the cause of any disease, is found by experience to be its proper curative. The excitement which this, given in small doses, produces, is soon followed by melioration of the disease, and ultimately by permanent cure. The dose administered on such a principle should be exceedingly small, and the action of such a dose, given under such circumstances, is not incredible."

And our author himself says,—

"A sick organism is much more vividly affected by external disagreeable impressions than an organism in a state of perfect health, which may be left entirely undisturbed by those impressions. The sick organism being so easily irritated by the least disturbing causes, it requires on the other hand very little to affect it favorably. It is upon this fact that we account for the efficiency of homœopathic doses. The homœopathic agent and the morbid force disturbing the organism in a similar manner, their disturbing influence must be directed primarily against the same central point in the organism, and, in disease,

that central focus must therefore be readily influenced by the homœopathic agents, so that the natural irritation will be easily, thoroughly and permanently counterbalanced and effaced by the artificial influence."

This is a point which must be regarded as settled, both by experience, and by reason; and it should be kept constantly in mind, as an inducement to the physician to observe carefully the action of dynamic agents upon the organism, especially when in a diseased condition, that he may not confound, in the language of our author, "the course, changes, transitions and general characteristics of disease" with the changes which medicines are capable of producing, and which they are certain to produce. If skill in this respect, is not possessed by the practitioner, he is liable to interfere by a repetition of the remedy; and thereby retard the cure in many cases, and absolutely destroy forever the power to cure in others.

With respect to the recorded cases found in the books, many of them, it is true, may be fancy sketches; yet there are thousands which too clearly give evidence in the very nature of the facts asserted, to be set aside by bare assertion, with no attempt to show upon what grounds they should be discredited.

We are aware that many physicians have, in the commencement of their practice noticed exacerbations, which, subsequently they have failed to observe. In all such cases it is to be feared, they have relapsed into habits of generalization, with less observation, and less care in selecting either the remedy or the attenuation of it. The tendency of such opinions so loosely held, and so imperfectly promulgated, is to retard the progress of truth in the healing art. Whereas on the other hand, there are those who, the longer they continue in practice the more frequently do they detect the effect of their remedies, and as frequently do they find cause to congratulate themselves on being able to do so, for thereby do they avoid the too frequent repetition of the dose.

At a future period, we may notice some other points in this work, with a view to draw the attention of the profession, to the essential principles of our art, that they may be guarded with a zealous care and preserved in their purity and efficacy.

ON THE VALUE OF THE SPECULATIVE SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE,

With particular reference to the ordinary practice associated with them.

BY SAMUEL HAHNEMANN.

[Continued from Page 71.]

Since, then, the books on materia medica, to speak moderately, could not borrow the greater part of their statements, as to the so-called virtues of pure, simple medical agents from the experiments of learned physicians, it being almost impossible to obtain any thing of the kind from that source; whence, then, have they got them?

Most of the assumed virtues of the simple remedies, were originally brought to light by domestic practice alone, and brought into vogue by laymen and uneducated men, who frequently were not competent to judge of the genuineness of the drug, often not to give its true name, and least of all, accurately to mark the diseased state in which it was said to have been useful. I say, "was said to have been useful," for even they, in case of necessity, employ this or that domestic remedy close on the first, so that, finally, we are ignorant what has really proved of service, even supposing the case itself to be accurately understood, which, in such hands, it never is.

The old herbalists, Matthioli, Tabernæmontanus, Gesner, Fuchs, Lonicerus, Ray, Tournefort, Bock, Lobel, Thurneisser, Clusius, Bauhin, &c., collected these bald reports, mixed with superstition and conjecture, very briefly, superficially, and confusedly, and mixed it up with what the original compiler, Dioscorides, had collected on the subject, in the same spirit, and our seemingly-learned materia medica was filled up from this unphilosophical catalogue, one copied from the other, down to modern times. This is its origin, (doubtful at best.)

The few books, which form an exception to the foregoing, (Bergius, and Cullen,) are so much more meagre in their statements of the virtues of medicines, that little, positive, is to be learned from them, since they generally, especially the latter, omitted everything doubtful and uncertain.

But one among thousands, Murray, specifies the cases in which the medicines were used. But these authorities are generally contradictory, an affirmative side against a negative,

and thus, even here, we are often at a loss to decide; cases often occur in which he adds a regret (would that he had expressed it in all) that the medicine was not used singly, but in conjunction with several others,—so that here, too, we are in the dark.

The very authorities, too, which are advanced, often leave the reader in uncertainty, as to the nature and precise character of the disease, in which the remedy was employed.

How little to be depended upon the most of those observers were, is evident from the fact that they generally assure us, "that the remedy in their hands never proved injurious, never caused the least harm, even if it did not prove of service," when, in truth, every powerful drug must injure, and, produce unfavorable results, in all cases, where it does not prove of service,—a principle which admits of no exception. So that this, too, is sheer falsehood.

And what is the gentle reader to learn from this best of all possible *materia medica*? Surely, little that is positive—little that is positive, and that respecting the only means of restoring health!

Just Heaven! Let us but reflect how dangerous must be the use, in diseases, of these drugs, not the hundredth part of whose qualities is known; which are as different from each other as the clouds in heaven, to ascertain the nature of which, even in the most proper manner, is a laborious task, and whose number is legion!

Further, let us reflect how wholly precarious, and, I might say, blind, are those prescriptions, by which, cases of disease, seen amiss through the false medium of ideal systems, are to be overcome by several of these almost unknown drugs at once, mixed in one or more of such formulæ. I here draw the curtain.

HOMŒOPATHY IN INDIA.

Extract from the letter of a correspondents in Madras:—"One of our most clever men has become a convert to homœopathy, and established an hospital under the auspices of the Rajah of Tanjore; others have commenced inquiry, and are forced to admit that the system is not destitute of truth, and are resolved on testing it by trial. At Tanjore some of the works on the subject have been translated by learned natives for distribution amongst their countrymen."

Medical Appointment in the University of New York.—Samuel H. Dickson, M. D., of Charleston, S. C., a gentleman distinguished for his high medical attainments, and particularly known as the author of a work on the practice of physic, under the title of *Essays on Pathology and Therapeutics*, has received the appointment of Professor of Theory and Practice, in the University of New York, in the Chair made vacant by the death of the late Dr. Revere.

JAHRS NEW MANUEL.

The 11th No. is upon our table. It is printed in the same neat style of its predecessors, and in ten days No. 12 is to appear. This work will soon be complete. Every body knows that it is published by Wm. Radde, 322 Broadway, New York city; and he would be most happy to forward the 11 Nos. to any who will remit to him \$5.

NOTICE.

Several letters addressed to us by Postmasters, most singularly got into other hands, and were detained.

One of these was handed in a few days since, which should have been received a month ago; and we were told that another one had been received and lost. This will account for the non-attention on our part to the wishes of some persons to whom we have sent the Journal.

This Journal has heretofore been mailed to many persons, whose friends have desired us to do so, and to some others at the request of agents. In some few instances, these friends paid the subscription, but generally they have not, informing us that those who received it would attend to that matter, which we should be most happy to realize. We do not intrude our periodical on any one, and we are about to make a clean sweep, from our books, of all those who have not complied with the terms—one dollar a year, in advance. This plan will set all to rights. Those, therefore, who do not receive this Journal after this number, may know that the subscription has not been paid. All letters addressed to us, containing money may be sent free on application to the postmaster, where the letter is mailed.

The friends of Homœopathy in Philadelphia can have this Journal delivered at their houses, on the day of publication, by leaving their names with C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North Fourth Street.

The friends of Homœopathy in Washington, D. C., can obtain this Journal, by leaving their names with W. ADAMS, of that city.

Those who may desire to subscribe for this Journal in Boston, may do so at OTIS CLAPP'S Book Store, 12 School-street.

Those subscribers who require Nos. 3 and 4 to complete the First Volume, will be supplied in a short time; and those who may want the 1st Volume of this Journal, bound, can obtain it in a few days, by sending orders to Chas. G. Dean, No 2 Ann Street, New York city.—Price \$1 50, sets unbound \$1 00.

SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

No. 488 Broadway, corner of Broome street. J. T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epp's Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, &c.

OTIS CLAPP, No. 12 School-st., Boston, has on hand, and for sale wholesale and retail, a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers, sugar of milk, pure alcohol, distilled water, pellets, etc. Physician's pocket and family cases of medicines on hand and prepared to order, also a complete assortment of Homœopathic Books which are offered to the trade, and at retail as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

CLEVELAND HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Up stairs, corner Superior st. and Public Square. B. H. BARTLETT respectfully informs Homœopathic Physicians, and others, that he has for sale, warranted, the principal HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES, in their different triturations and dilutions; Pure Spirits of Wine, for preparing and preserving medicines: Distilled water, prepared for immediate use; Refined Sugar of Milk; Pure Globules or Pellets, Vials, Corks, Diet Papers and Labels. Arnica Flowers and Arnica plaster.

Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homœopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Herring's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., by A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.